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Local Self-Government

Postponement of the date of elections to the District Boards of Guntur and Ongole.

* 676 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the new general elections for the Guntur and Ongole District Boards have been postponed from a date which was originally thought of for the purpose;

(*b*) if so, what the reasons therefor are and whether a copy of the order passed in the matter will be placed on the table;

(*c*) when the elections for these two district boards are to be commenced and completed;

(*d*) when the life of the present District Boards of Guntur and Ongole is to expire; and

(*e*) whether orders have been passed in these matters, and, if so, whether copies of them will be placed on the table?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*d*) & (*e*) Attention is invited to the notification on the subject published on page 609 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 24th December 1935.

(*c*) The elections will be commenced in January 1936 and completed by 10th February 1936.

Fixation of the strength of the ministerial staff of district boards and orders, if any, governing promotions.

* 677 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have fixed the number of ministerial staff of each district board; and if so, what it is;

(*b*) the qualifications prescribed for holding the post of Secretary, Superintendents and Manager of the district board offices;

(*c*) whether there is any Government Order authorizing the Presidents of district boards to select persons from among the clerks serving in lower and upper divisions for the post of Secretary, Superintendents and Manager of the district board offices; and

(*d*) if so, whether a copy of the order will be placed on the table?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 657.

(*b*) The qualifications prescribed for the posts referred to are contained in the rule issued with Notification No. 1523, published on page 562 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 3rd December 1935.

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(c) & (d) In G.O. No. 276, L. & M., dated the 25th January 1935, the procedure in regard to making appointments to these posts by presidents of district boards, has been laid down. This Government Order was already placed on the table of the House in reply to clause (a) of question No. 802 answered on the 11th March 1935.

Elections to the Provincial Legislatures

Programme of elections to the local legislature under the Reforms.

* 678 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the preparations for elections to the local legislatures under the new reforms are; and

(b) when the new elections are likely to take place?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 346, at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 31st October 1935.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I know if the Hon. Member is not able to tell definitely at least now when the elections are likely to come up? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" No, Sir, I have no definite information."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—" Did not the Conference which was held at Delhi throw more light on this matter? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" The matter was discussed at Delhi; but a good deal depends on the publication of the Hammond Committee's Report."

S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—" Is the Hon. Member aware that the papers have forcasted to the effect that the elections will be held in January? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" I am not aware of that."

Provincial Finance

Rate of interest charged by the Government of India for the current year.

* 679 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the interest rate of the Government of India for the current year has been announced and, if so, what it is and when it was received?

A.—Yes. The standard rate of interest to be charged by the Provincial Loans Fund in respect of advances made to Provincial Governments in 1935–36 is $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent per annum. The information was received by this Government on 1st September 1935.